The paper contains contributions to our knowledge of the methods of treatment used by witch-doctors.—J. W. C. **Gunn**: The action of *Urginea Burkei*. Experiments were performed on frogs, rabbits, cats, rats, and guinea-pigs with extracts of *Urginea Burkei*, Baker, commonly known as the Transvaal slang-kop. It has an action on the alimentary system, producing vomiting and diarrhœa, and on the nervous system, resulting in loss of power in the limbs, diminution of reflexes, and final paralysis. Its main action is on the circulatory system.—G. A. **Boulenger** and J. H. **Power**: A revision of the South African Agamas allied to *Agama hispida*, *A. atra* and *A. anchietae*. The paper contains a revision of the group of South African reptiles which has stood most in need of revision. The account in the British Museum Catalogue of Lizards has long ceased to fulfil its purpose, and the attempt is now made, with the help of a very large amount of material, to arrive at conclusions which will stand the test of time.—S. H. **Skaife**: A species of Microdon (Diptera) from Natal. The paper gives a description of the larva, puparium, and adult female of *Microdon illucens*, Bezzi, the growth being under the author's observation.—J. D. F. **Gilchrist**: Note on living fish brought by H.M.S. *Challenger*.

SYDNEY.

Linnean Society of New South Wales, September 29.—Mr. J. J. Fletcher, president, in the chair.—Dr. J. M. **Petrie**: The chemical examination of *Macrozamia spiralis*. A complete summary of its poisonous record is given. In the leaves the following constituents were identified: Formic, acetic, valerianic, and lauric acids; oleic, stearic, and higher fatty acids; a volatile essential oil; a phytosterol; a paraffin with the properties of triacontane, and an olefine having the properties of octodecylene. The nuts contained 39 per cent. of starch and much mucilage. In feeding experiments white rats were given with their ordinary food (1) crushed fresh leaves, (2) grated seeds, (3) the rich, fatty, and resinous components extracted from the leaves by ether, and (4) aqueous extracts of the leaves and the seeds. The animals showed no signs of being affected after feeding for three weeks.—A. P. **Dodd**: Two new Hymenoptera of the superfamily Proctotrypidæ from Australia. A new genus is proposed in the family Diapriidæ, and a new species of Prosoxylabis (Belytidæ), the former being a primary parasite of the sheep-maggot flies.—Prof. W. N. **Benson**, W. S. **Dun**, and W. R. **Browne**: The geology and petrology of the Great Serpentine Belt of New South Wales. Part ix.: The geology, palæontology, and petrography of the Currabubula district, with notes on adjacent regions. The extrusive rocks comprise keratophyric tuffs of the Burindi and Kuttung series, with which are interbedded soda rhyolite flows and tuffs and basalt. The Werrie series consists of decomposed basalts, occasionally slaggy. Invading these, and also the underlying Kuttung and Burindi beds, is an immense series of sills and dykes comprising quartz keratophyre, quartz trachyte, quartz latite, andesite, lamprophyre, normal and albite dolerite, teschenite, and basalt. Attention is directed to the peculiar association of calcic and alkaline rock-types linked by intermediate types, and evidently derived from a common stock magma. Though the dominant rocks in this area are intrusive, and those in the Paterson, Seaham, and Pokolbin districts are effusive, the petrographical similarity of the Carboniferous igneous rocks in the two districts is most marked.—A. M. **Lea**: Descriptions of new species of Australian Coleoptera. Part xvi. Nineteen species and one variety of Ditropidus, three species of Elaphodes, and three species of Cœnobius are described as new. In addition, notes on synonymy, etc., partly the result of examination of some of Macleay's and Olliff's types from the Australian Museum, are given for seventy-one species belonging to twenty-two genera.

Books Received.

Physics: The Elements. By Dr. Norman R. Campbell. Pp. ix+565. (Cambridge: At the University Press.) 40*s.* net.

Newton. By Gino Loria. Pp. 69. (Roma: A. F. Formiggini.) 2.70 lire.

Text-book of Pastoral and Agricultural Botany. By Prof. John W. Harshberger. Pp. xiii+294. (Philadelphia: P. Blakiston's Son and Co.) 2 dollars.

The Gyroscopic Compass: A Non-Mathematical Treatment. By T. W. Chalmers. Pp. x+167. (London: Constable and Co., Ltd.) 11*s.* net.

Grains and Grammes: A Table of Equivalents for the Use of Numismatists. Pp. 35. (London: British Museum.) 3*s.* net.

Notes and Answers to Exercises in Practical Geometry and Theoretical Geometry. By C. Godfrey and A. W. Siddons. Pp. 26. (Cambridge: At the University Press.) 1*s.* 6*d.* net.

Lehrbuch der Paläozoologie. By Prof. O. Abel. Pp. xvi+500. (Jena: G. Fischer.) 40 marks.

Initiative in Evolution. By Dr. W. Kidd. Pp. x+262. (London: H. F. and G. Witherby.) 15*s.* net.

Territory in Bird Life. By E. Eliot Howard. Pp. xiii+308. (London: J. Murray.) 21*s.* net.

Coal in Great Britain: The Composition, Structure, and Resources of the Coalfields, Visible and Concealed, of Great Britain. By Dr. W. Gibson. Pp. viii+311+viii plates. (London: E. Arnold.) 21*s.* net.

A Text-book of Geology. By P. Lake and R. H. Rastall. Third edition. Pp. xiv+508+xxxiii plates. (London: E. Arnold.) 21*s.* net.

Scientific and Applied Pharmacognosy. By Prof. H. Kraemer. Second edition. Pp. xxviii+741. (New York: J. Wiley and Sons, Inc.; London: Chapman and Hall, Ltd.) 33*s.* net.

The Nature of Animal Light. By Prof. E. N. Harvey. Pp. x+182. (Philadelphia and London: J. B. Lippincott Co.) 10*s.* 6*d.* net.

Some Conclusions on Cancer. By Dr. C. Creighton. Pp. xiii+365. (London: Williams and Norgate.) 42*s.* net.

Kentucky Superstitions. By Dr. D. L. Thomas and L. B. Thomas. Pp. viii+334. (Princeton: University Press; London: Oxford University Press.) 12*s.* 6*d.* net.

The New Calendar of Great Men. Edited by Frederic Harrison. New edition. Pp. xx+708. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.) 30*s.* net.

The Secrets of the Self (Asrár-I Khudí). A Philosophical Poem. By Sheikh Muhammad Igbal. Translated from the original Persian by Dr. R. A. Nicholson. Pp. xxxi+147. (London: Macmillan and Co., Ltd.) 7*s.* 6*d.* net.

A Text-book of Plant Biology. By Prof. W. N. Jones and Dr. M. C. Rayner. Pp. viii+262+vi plates. (London: Methuen and Co., Ltd.) 7*s.*

British Mammals. Written and illustrated by A. Thorburn. In 2 vols. Vol. i. Pp. vii+84+25 plates. (London: Longmans, Green and Co., Ltd.) 2 vols. 10*l.* 10*s.* net.

Organic Chemistry for Advanced Students. By Prof. J. B. Cohen. Third edition. Part i.: Reactions. Pp. viii+366. Part ii.: Structure. Pp. vii+

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435. Part iii.: Synthesis. Pp. vii+378. (London: E. Arnold.) 18*s*. net each vol.

Australasian Antarctic Expedition, 1911–14. Scientific Reports. Series C: Zoology and Botany. Vol. v., part 7: Ostracoda. By F. Chapman. Pp. 48+2 plates. 4*s*. 7*d*. Vol. v., part 8: The Insects of Macquarie Island. By Dr. R. J. Tillyard. Pp. 35. 2*s*. 9*d*. Vol. vii., part 1: Mosses. By H. N. Dixon and the Rev. W. W. Watts. Pp. 9. 1*s*. Vol. vii., part 2: The Algæ of Commonwealth Bay. By A. H. S. Lucas. Pp. 18+9 plates. 3*s*. 6*d*. Vol. vii., part 3: The Vascular Flora of Macquarie Island. Pp. 63. 6*s*. 6*d*. Vol. vii., part 4: Bacteriological and other Researches. By Dr. A. L. McLean. Pp. 130+11 plates. 16*s*. (Sydney: W. Gullick.)

Diary of Societies.

THURSDAY, November 25.

Royal Society, at 4.—Special General Meeting to consider the Annual Report of Council.—At 4.30.—Prof. L. Hill: The Growth of Seedlings in Wind.—Prof. P. T. Herring: The Effect of Thyroid-feeding and of Thyro-parathyroidectomy upon the Pituitrin Content of the Posterior Lobe of the Pituitary, the Cerebro-spinal Fluid, and Blood.—W. A. Jolly: Reflex Times in the South African Clawed Frog.—Prof. J. A. Gunn and R. St. A. Heathcote: Cellular Immunity. Observations on Natural and Acquired Immunity to Cobra Venom.—L. T. Hogben: Studies on Synapsis. III. The Nuclear Organisation of the Germ Cells in *Libellula depressa*.

Chadwick Public Lectures (at the Medical Society of London), at 5.15.—Prof. J. B. Farmer: Some Biological Aspects of Disease.

Institution of Electrical Engineers (at Institution of Civil Engineers), at 6.—W. B. Woodhouse: The Distribution of Electricity.—R. O. Kapp: Some Economic Aspects of E.H.T. Distribution by Underground Cables.

Concrete Institute, at 7.30.—E. F. Etchells: Presidential Address.

Egypt Exploration Society (at Royal Society), at 8.30.—Prof. G. Elliot Smith: The Royal Mummies.

Royal Society of Medicine (Urology Section), at 8.30.

FRIDAY, November 26.

Royal Society of Medicine (Study of Disease in Children Section), at 5.—Dr. D. Drury: Malformation of the Face, Ear, Eye, and Hand occurring in an Infant.

Institution of Electrical Engineers (Students' Section) (at the City and Guilds Technical College, Leonard Street, E.C.), at 6.30.—A. J. C. Watts: Electricity and the Paper-making Industry.

Optical Society and Physical Society of London (at Imperial College of Science and Technology), at 7.—The Making of Reflecting Surfaces. (*a*) Technical Methods of Production.—R. Kanthack: Description of the General Features of Published Processes.—H. N. Irving: Methods of Silvering.—J. W. French: Workshop Notes on Silvering.—F. Ellerman and H. D. Babcock: The Silvering of Glass Reflectors.—J. Rheinberg: Platinum Reflecting Surfaces on Glass by the Burning-in Process.—R. S. Whipple: The Silvering of Glass and Quartz Fibres.—H. A. Hughes: Demonstration of a Silvering Process.—C. W. Davidson: The Silvering of a Large Reflector. (*b*) Reflecting Powers of Surfaces, etc.—J. W. T. Walsh: The Photometric Measurement of the Reflecting Powers of Mirrors.—Prof. Féry: A Note on some Permanent Mirrors for Reflecting Heat Radiations.—W. G. Collins: Rustless Steel Mirrors.—R. W. Cheshire or Dennis Taylor: Note on Increasing the Transmitting Powers of Surfaces.—F. Simeon: Demonstration of Apparatus used for Producing Mirrors by Cathodic Bombardment.

Junior Institution of Engineers (at Caxton Hall), at 8.—C. O. Mourant: Reinforced Concrete Coal Bunkers and Silos.

Royal Society of Tropical Medicine and Hygiene (at 11 Chandos Street, W.), at 8.—Resumed Discussion on Paper by Prof. W. Yorke: The Present Position of Trypanosomiasis Research.—G. Dudgeon: Some Important Tropical Fruit Foods.

Royal Society of Medicine (Epidemiology and State Medicine Section), at 8.30.—Dr. A. Chaplin: Measures for Preserving the Health of Seamen on Board Ship.

MONDAY, November 29.

The Institute of Actuaries (in Staple Inn Hall), at 5.—Sir Alfred Watson: Address.

Institution of Electrical Engineers (Informal Meeting) (at Chartered Institute of Patent Agents), at 7.—A. F. Harmer and Others: Discussion on Electrical Transmission on Petrol Vehicles.

Royal Institute of British Architects, at 8.—Professional Questions.

Royal Society of Arts, at 8.—A. Chaston Chapman: Micro-organisms and some of their Industrial Uses (Cantor Lecture).

TUESDAY, November 30.

Royal Horticultural Society, at 3.

Royal Society, at 4.—Anniversary Meeting.

Royal Society of Medicine (Tropical Medicine Section), at 5.—Dr. F. G. Rose: The Incidence of Filariasis in British Guiana.

Institution of Civil Engineers, at 5.30.

Royal Photographic Society of Great Britain (Technical Meeting), at 7.—G. C. Weston: Dark Room Dodges.

WEDNESDAY, December 1.

Geological Society of London, at 5.15.—Special General Meeting.—At 5.30.—Ordinary Meeting.—Dr. E. Greenly: An Æolian Pleistocene Deposit at Clevedon, Somerset.

Society of Public Analysts and other Analytical Chemists (at Chemical Society), at 8.—R. V. Wadsworth: Estimation of Theobromine.—B. S. Evans: A New Process for the Estimation of Small Quantities of Chromium in Steels.—P. V. and F. H. Dupré: Some Notes on the Reactions between Fulminate of Mercury and Sodium Hyposulphite.

Royal Society of Arts, at 8.—Miss L. F. Pesel: Embroidery: National Taste in relation to Trade.

THURSDAY, December 2.

Royal Aeronautical Society (at Royal Society of Arts), at 5.—Major G. H. Scott: Airship Piloting.—Flight-Lieutenant F. L. C. Butcher: Airship Mooring.

Child-Study Society (at Royal Sanitary Institute), at 6.—Dr. W. Brown: The Value of Suggestion in Education.

Chemical Society, at 8.—Sir Prafulla C. Rây: Varying Valency of Platinum with Respect to Mercaptanic Radicles.—H. E. Cox: The Influence of the Solvent on the Velocity of certain Reactions. Part II. Temperature Coefficients. A Test of the Radiation Hypothesis.—K. J. P. Orton and P. V. McKie: Preparation of Chloropicrin from Picric Acid and Trinitrotoluenes.

FRIDAY, December 3.

Royal Astronomical Society (Geophysical Committee), at 5.—Discussion: The Cause of Magnetic Storms.—In Chair: J. H. Jeans. Opener: Prof. F. A. Lindemann.—Other Speakers: Prof. S. Chapman, Dr. C. Chree, Rev. A. L. Cortie, E. W. Maunder, C. S. Wright, and Others.

Institution of Mechanical Engineers, at 6.—Further Discussion on The Human Factor in Industry, by A. Ramsay.

Institution of Electrical Engineers (Students' Section) (at King's College), at 6.30.—A. Serner and Others: Discussion on The Modern Tendency to Trusts. Is it Beneficial?

SATURDAY, December 4.

Gilbert White Fellowship (at 6 Queen Square, W.C.1), at 3.—H. J. Elwes: The Primitive Races of Sheep in Great Britain.

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